1st Quarter Edition - 2011

New Year's Resolutions

Did you put safety on your list of things to improve upon this year?

Many of us made New Year's resolutions this year, but how many of you put safety on your list? There are numerous things we can make a resolution to improve upon this year when it comes to our safety. Make it a point to meet your neighbors, and better yet get involved in a neighborhood watch program. If your neighborhood does not currently have one, it is as easy as calling the main CSU number listed to the right to get one set up!

With the beginning of a New Year, let's look back on incidents that could have been prevented. Incidents such as car theft, identity theft, or just theft in general can all be prevented. Just being cautious about who you give your personal information to can save you from being a victim of identity theft. Parking your car in a well lit area with busy traffic passing through could save you from being a victim of car theft. Just by being more aware of your surroundings or by taking cautionary steps can reduce your chance for being a victim of theft.

So this year, let's not make the same mistakes. Be alert about your surroundings and start out the New Year right! To learn more information or ways to prevent any types of theft visit www.ncpc.org.

Excerpts from National Crime Prevention Council

Crime Prevention Officers

Officer Hal Diggs
757-253-2058
haroldd@james-city.va.us

Officer Todd Dill
757-253-2058
tdill@james-city.va.us

Officer Alan McDowell
757-253-2058
alanmc@james-city.va.us

Officer Kelly Saponaro
757-253-2046
kellyc@james-city.va.us

Officer Richard Schugeld
757-253-2058
rschugeld@james-city.va.us

CSU Main office number:
253-2481

Meet the School Resource Officers

Officer Sean Gormus

Toano Middle School

sgormus@james-city.va.us

Officer Wendi Reed

Hornsby Middle School

wendir@james-city.va.us

Officer Ian DeModna

Jamestown High School

idemodna@james-city.va.us

Officer Jerry White

Lafayette High School

jerrylw@james-city.va.us

Officer Scott Collett

Warhill High School

scollett@james-city.va.us

The Watch Dial is now published quarterly. The next edition will come out in March 2011.

FACEBOOK PLACES

Are you or your kids using the PLACES app on facebook or similar apps on your smartphone? What you should know!

The danger behind PLACES!

In the technology driven world that we live in today, many of us and most teenagers are learning about and using new applications online on a regular basis. A new trend is the use of PLACES or other applications on smartphones that tell people where we are currently located.

Many people think that using "PLACES" on facebook or other similar applications is harmless and even fun. As we take a step back and look at the safety of using such applications we want you to keep in mind that some of these applications provide too much information, such as when you are not home, where you live, and sometimes even establish a pattern letting would be criminals know when the best time to visit your unoccupied house would be.

Facebook's places is even so generous as to give users a google map and directions to the location you list. We see many people "checking in" at HOME letting friends see a map and directions to their home. This may seem harmless at first, as many of you are thinking that only your friends on facebook can see this information. We want to remind you that facebook changes their privacy settings on a regular basis so if you do not continually check to see what information you are sharing you may be sharing more than you think. You may be thinking you are safe because you do not personally use the application. Did you know your friends can tag you in their PLACES letting people know where you are without you even knowing that someone has done this. Changing your privacy settings can eliminate this possibility.

Some applications allow friends of your friends to see your information to include the information you post in the PLACES application. Do you know all of your friend's friends? And how many of the "friends" do you have on facebook do you really know? Many of us "friend" people we haven't seen or talked to in many years. We tend to let our guard down when utilizing online services. We want to ensure you are doing everything you can to keep yourself and your property safe. While the thrill of using these newer applications seem like fun and a new trend, be mindful of the risks involved.
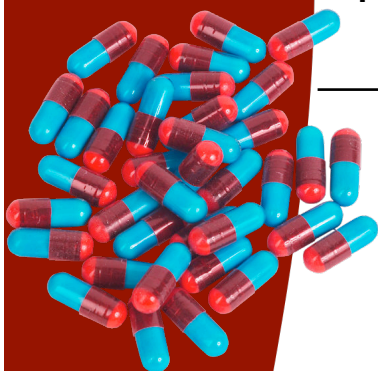
Parents need to also check to ensure their children are not using these applications, which could send a message to would be criminals that they are home alone or at any location without a parent or unsupervised.

Technology can be great, but can also disclose more information than we want or even know. Make it a priority to check your privacy settings on the applications you do use and to know what your children are using and update their privacy settings as well.

For more information about Places and information on how to update your privacy settings go to:

http://www.facebook.com/places/

Ongoing
Prescription Drug Take Back program

The Williamsburg Drug Company located at 240 McLaws Circle has started accepting unwanted and expired prescription drugs on an ongoing basis. They will accept all prescription drugs, but will not accept needles. The unwanted or expired medication can be turned in Monday - Friday 8am-6pm and Saturday 9am - 4pm. The medication can only be accepted by the pharmacist on duty.

James City County Police Department hosts a blood drive

You're Invited

February 9, 2011
10:00am-4:00pm

at the Law Enforcement Center
5087 John Tyler Highway
To schedule an appointment time online go to www.redcrossblood.org and enter sponsor code jccpd

GIVE BLOOD
GIVE LIFE

Each donor will receive a free long sleeve Red Cross T-shirt.

FREE **VIN ETCHING EVENT** **APRIL 21st, 2011**

Target Parking lot on Monticello Ave.

Come out and have the VIN of your vehicle etched into the glass - Help deter vehicle theft!

Thieves would have to replace all of the glass in your vehicle before selling the stolen vehicle which makes it not as profitable for them. VIN etching can also increase the odds of recovering your vehicle if stolen.

VIRGINIA STATE POLICE
HEAT
HELP ELIMINATE AUTO THEFT
1-800-947-HEAT

Sponsored by James City County Police and the Virginia State Police HEAT

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RAIDS ONLINE is an advanced free public crime mapping, crime analysis, and neighborhood crime alert system. You can view up-to-date call for service information online for your area. Currently, only James City County and York County in Virginia participate in the program. By going to www.raidsonline.com and putting in an address you will be able to see various types of calls for service. The program automatically defaults to showing only the previous two (2) weeks of calls, but you can change the setting to show up to two (2) years of calls for service.

You can also sign up for weekly emails or texts with information about calls for service in the area you select, and you can join citizens on patrol on the site which allows James City County Police Department to send you alerts and messages pertinent to crime and crime prevention in your area.

UPCOMING EVENT

2nd Annual Project Lifesaver Car Show ~
May 7, 2011 10:00am-3:00pm at Warhill High School

Awards for TOP 35 and the People's Choice provided by Nationwide Insurance - Elaine Obie
Open to ALL Vehicles
Registration on day of the show - $10.00 each vehicle + can of food
Registration - 10:00am-Noon

help us stuff the Cruiser full of canned food to be donated to The Salvation Army food bank.

Nationwide